

**REMARKS**

The present Amendment makes express reference to the Continuation status of the Application at Page 1, before Line 1 of the Specification.

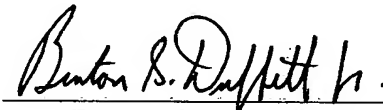
The examination and allowance of the Application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: December 10, 2003

By:



Benton S. Duffett, Jr.

Registration No. 22,030

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620